



Fusion 1: mare nostrum
Digital Teaching Workshop

Minimal Invasive Methods for the Conservation of Textile Supports of Paintings
On focus: local treatments of tears, cuts and losses

With support from the Getty Foundation's **Conserving Canvas Initiative**, the **Cologne Institute of Conservation Sciences (CICS)** will host and organise a digital teaching workshop about minimal invasive methods for the conservation of textile supports of paintings. The focus will be on local treatments of tears, cuts and losses, in particular the single thread bonding technique (thread-by-thread tear mending method).

Program Description

The digital teaching workshop consists of a 10 days intensive course. After the workshop, there is a follow-up period of approximately 3 months with 5 digital meetings planned. The workshop aims to familiarize primarily museum painting conservators in the selected regional community of Mediterranean Countries (e.g. Croatia, Egypt, Israel, Italy, Greece, Lebanon, Montenegro, Spain, Turkey) with different minimal invasive methods to close tears, cuts and losses to reconstruct the continuity of textile supports.

The focus is on the single thread bonding technique used for closing local interruptions like tears and cuts in the textile support as well as the application of inserts in the case of fabric loss.

Local damages in textile supports of paintings have been traditionally repaired with high-risk and uncontrolled methods such as patches and linings. Therefore, paintings are often unnecessarily removed from their stretchers and impregnated with adhesives. To avoid such destructive interventions, which affect the integrity of the paintings, the advanced minimal invasive methods are based on the investigation of the mechanical behaviour of canvas paintings as well as the material testing of adhesives.

The aim of the workshop is to support the concepts of painting conservators with reliable data, which are the result of extensive investigations. The workshop is based on the combination of theory, case studies, discussions, demonstrations and practical sessions with numerous technical aspects explained in detail.

The participants will have a unique opportunity to study, analyse and assess several selected minimal invasive interventions in practice. The participants will receive a series of specially selected instruments and materials (e.g. fine tools and stereo microscope) to allow them to carry out the conservation treatment directly in their studios. This equipment can be retained by the participants after the workshop, allowing for the techniques presented to be incorporated into studio practice. The instructors will support the participants during the conservation treatment of a selected painting on a textile support, sourced from their collections, in a series of consultation sessions after the workshop. Curators of the collections will also be invited to join selected components of the workshop.

Furthermore, the participants will receive handouts of all presentations, extensive bibliography covering the relevant topics and selected papers, data sheets and information about the materials and equipment (incl. supplier information).

The workshop language will be English without individual translation.

Workshop Structure

The digital teaching workshop *Fusion 1: mare nostrum* will be led by Dipl.-Rest. Petra Demuth and Dr.-Ing. M.A. Hannah Flock. The workshop will be enriched by Prof. Dr. Andrea Pataki-Hundt as Head of Project.

The planned schedule is as follows:

a) Application Phase	1 st 31 st	September 2021 October 2021	Application deadline Selection procedure and confirmation
b) Workshop Preparation	11 th 4 th	February 2022 March 2022	Installation of the microscopes which have been shipped to the participants Set up of individual work spaces
c) Main Workshop	7-11 th 14-18 th	March 2022 March 2022	First part Second part
d) Post-workshop Meetings	25 th 1 st 29 th 27 th 1 st	March 2022 April 2022 April 2022 May 2022 July 2022	Accompanying meeting 1 Meeting 2 Meeting 3 Meeting 4 Final meeting

Application Procedure

The application is possible for post-graduate and mid-career painting conservators, with an institutional affiliation, professionally engaged in relevant work with paintings collections in Mediterranean countries. Conservators which are working in the museum environment or comparable institutions will be given preference; private conservators working regularly on museum collections or in the museum environment may also apply. All applicants are expected to have a number of years of active practical experience in the field of structural treatment of paintings on textile supports. The course is intended for conservators which have the necessary expertise as well as the shared responsibility for preserving paintings on canvas, in the future. The conservators should be willing to pass on knowledge gained during the workshop to their home institution. The applicants should also demonstrate a willingness to be flexible in their approach to structural treatments and have demonstrable hand-skills. In their application, the participants should nominate a painting on textile support as a suitable case study for tear closure, inserts etc. for further treatment during the mentoring period.

Applicants should submit the following:

- Name, contact details and affiliated institution
- Letter of motivation and a detailed CV
- Letter of recommendation and support from institution/s concerned
- Selected case studie/s for the workshop (demonstrating the approach to the structural treatments(s) of canvases in the collection/s)
- Short video for self-introduction
- Official permission by the responsible director and/or curator for the investigation before the workshop, the concept development during the workshop and the conservation of the selected art work during the follow-up period of the workshop as well as for the documentation including image rights for a publication in relation to the selected artwork (additional form to be signed, see below)

Application deadline is Wednesday **1st September 2021**.

All application materials should be sent by email to workshop-fusion@th-koeln.de.

Object: Digital Teaching Workshop *Fusion 1: mare nostrum*

The Cologne Institute of Conservation Sciences (CICS), Technische Hochschule Köln, has joined the Conserving Canvas Initiative promoted by the Getty Foundation. The participants will take part in this workshop project with a selected painting on textile support as a candidate for intervention and treatment during the mentoring period of the workshop.

Official permission

Herewith confirms (name of director/curator)
on behalf of (name of institution)
that (name of applicant)
is authorized to use the object
.....(specification of painting/s on textile support)
in the context of the above mentioned digital teaching workshop *Fusion 1: mare nostrum*, regarding preparation, workshop phase and follow-up meetings, to present the selected object, to develop and implement a treatment concept and to share the documentation to be made with the workshop organizers. Furthermore, it is confirmed that selected images including image rights can be made available for publication and that the object in question may be presented within the framework of publications.

Furthermore, by signing, it is assured that the person signing has obtained all necessary consents from the relevant institution(s) and is authorized to guarantee this permission.

For acceptance

.....
Institution representative (place, date, signature)

All parties hereby authorize

the Cologne Institute of Conservation Sciences (CICS), Technische Hochschule Köln, free of charge, without time limits, to keep the provided material (documentation, photos) themselves in the computer archives, and note that the purpose of a publication will be educational, didactic, informative and promotional, informing and naming the signing institution and applicant.

All parties declare

- to have read and accept the terms and conditions of processing of data in the manner and for the purposes indicated in this document,
- to assume full responsibility for the declared information made, relieving the CICS and Technische Hochschule Köln of any claim and/or action even of third parties,
- to be informed/or and aware that for some transmissions download is allowed,
- forego any consideration for the publication, use, reproduction and dissemination of images.

.....
Institution representative (place, date, signature)

.....
Applicant (place, date, signature)

Information for the publication of data

The Cologne Institute of Conservation Sciences (CICS), Technische Hochschule Köln, informs you that data provided will be processed using paper and telematics methods in compliance with current legislation and the principles of fairness, lawfulness, transparency and confidentiality. In this perspective, the data provided will be used for the purposes strictly related to the workshop project *Fusion 1: mare nostrum*.

Processing of personal data

The signing parties acknowledge that the data mentioned in this contract will be processed exclusively for the performance of activities and for the fulfillment of obligations under the laws and regulations.

The personal data provided in this document and in further context of the application (such as name, address, e-mail address), which are necessary and required solely for the purpose of conducting the workshop in question, are collected and stored on the basis of legal authorizations. Any use of the personal data beyond this and the collection of additional information requires the consent of the parties concerned.

The parties concerned hereby consent to Cologne Institute of Conservation Sciences (CICS), Technische Hochschule Köln, storing this data and contacting them by email/telephone and commissioning postal mailings.

The parties concerned are entitled at any time to request Cologne Institute of Conservation Sciences (CICS), Technische Hochschule Köln, to provide them with comprehensive information about the data stored about them.

All parties may also request that Cologne Institute of Conservation Sciences (CICS), Technische Hochschule Köln, correct or delete or individual personal data at any time. The revocation must be sent as written notice.

For acceptance

.....
Institution representative (place, date, signature)

.....
Applicant (place, date, signature)